

CLAIMS

1. A protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 26
5 or SEQ ID NO: 52, or a salt thereof.

2. A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a salt thereof.

3. A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26, or a salt thereof.

10 4. A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 52, or a salt thereof.

5. The protein according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 52 is an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 54.

15 6. A protein consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 54, or a salt thereof.

7. A partial peptide of the protein according to claim 1, or a salt thereof.

8. A polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide encoding the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide according to claim 7.

20 9. The polynucleotide according to claim 8, which is DNA.

10. A polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 53 or SEQ ID NO: 55.

11. A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 8.

25 12. A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 11.

13. A method of manufacturing the protein or its salt according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt according to claim 7, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 12, forming and accumulating the protein according
30 to claim 1 or the partial peptide according to claim 7, and recovering it.

14. A pharmaceutical comprising the protein according to claim 1 or the partial peptide according to claim 7.

15. A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 8.

16. A diagnostic agent comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 8.

35 17. An antibody to the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide

according to claim 7, or a salt of the protein or partial peptide.

18. A diagnostic agent comprising the antibody according to claim 17.

19. A pharmaceutical comprising the antibody according to claim 17.

20. A polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary or
5 substantially complementary to that of the polynucleotide according to claim 8 or a
part of the nucleotide sequence.

21. A diagnostic agent comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 20.

22. A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 20.

23. A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits
10 the activity of the protein or its salt according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its
salt according to claim 7, which comprises using the protein or its salt according to
claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt according to claim 7.

24. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the
activity of the protein or its salt according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt
15 according to claim 7, which comprises the protein or its salt according to claim 1 or
the partial peptide or its salt according to claim 7.

25. A compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the
protein or its salt according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt according to
claim 7, which is obtained by using the screening method according to claim 23 or
20 the screening kit according to claim 24.

26. A pharmaceutical comprising the compound or its salt according to
claim 25.

27. A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits
the expression of a gene for the protein according to claim 1, which comprises using
25 the polynucleotide according to claim 8.

28. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the
expression of a gene for the protein according to claim 1, which comprises the
polynucleotide according to claim 8.

29. A compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of a gene
30 for the protein according to claim 1, which is obtained by the screening method
according to claim 27 or the screening kit according to claim 28.

30. A pharmaceutical comprising the compound or its salt according to
claim 29.

31. A method of quantifying the protein according to claim 1, which
35 comprises using the antibody according to claim 17.

32. A method of diagnosing diseases associated with the function of the protein according to claim 1, which comprises using the quantification method according to claim 31.

5 33. A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of the protein according to claim 1, which comprises using the antibody according to claim 17.

34. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of the protein according to claim 1, which comprises the antibody according to claim 17.

10 35. A compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the expression of the protein according to claim 1, which is obtained by using the screening method according to claim 33 or the screening kit according to claim 34.

36. A pharmaceutical comprising the compound according to claim 35 or a salt thereof.

15 37. The pharmaceutical according to claim 14, 15, 19, 22, 26, 30 or 36, which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for renal diseases.

38. A method of preventing/treating renal diseases, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound according to claim 25, 29 or 35 or a salt thereof to a mammalian animal.

20 39. Use of the compound according to claim 25, 29 or 35 or a salt thereof in producing a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for renal diseases.